

**WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**  
**Thursday, October 22, 2015**

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, October 22, 2015 by Tamara Kenworthy at 5:35 p.m.

Commission present: Brenda Sedlacek, Diane Boyd, Tamara Kenworthy, Ryan Crane, Rita Luther, Gary Hammers, TJ Lechtenberg

Staff present: Director of Parks & Recreation Gary Scott, Superintendent of Recreation Greg Hansen, Parks & Recreation Secretary Sonya Coobs

**On Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

Lechtenberg moved to approve the agenda. Sedlacek seconded. Motion carried.

**On Item 2. Citizen Forum**

No items.

**On Item 3. Approval of Minutes – September 24, 2015 Commission meeting**

Luther moved to approve the minutes as amended. Crane seconded. Motion carried.

In other discussion Luther asked if the sharp edges of the Boshart sculpture had been ground down as requested at the September 24 meeting (Item 5B). She requested the signs, that are placed around the sculpture be brought further out and away so they are easier to read and asked solar lighting be placed around the sculpture to showcase the piece. Luther discussed the letter (Item 7B) that Scott and Kenworthy were going to prepare for Councilman Sandager regarding the Challenge Grant. Scott stated he had spoken to Sandager but would still meet with Kenworthy to create a letter.

**On Item 4. Old Business**

No items.

**New Business**

**On Item 5A. Motion – FY 2016-2017 Operating Budget Request**

Scott stated this was the first year for an actual budget. In prior years Finance would put the generated amount (\$120,000) into the account but last year Scott requested that \$100,000 be placed in project and \$20,000 be in programs and that would cover the Arts on the Campus. The 2015- 2016 budget was amended this year for what is projected and perhaps to be spent. Based on that, Scott thought a budget should be submitted with breakdowns for Commission travel and/or training, community service projects for the future, the purchase of AOC work of art and the likelihood of a commissioned work of public art. Hammers asked if more money is needed is it an easy amendment? Scott agreed that it is an easy amendment to make and stated that the money in this account rolls over from year to year, it is not lost in the general funds of the City. Crane and Boyd questioned Scott about materials that might be used and what budget it would come out of. Kenworthy discussed having a trade display and having a line item be added to the budget for marketing. Scott discussed using the program budget for those items. Kenworthy would like to have a marketing line item of \$5000 be added in the 2016-2017 budget. Kenworthy had questions regarding the purchase of a current AOC and where that budget for that is. Scott states the purchase for that is out of the 2015-2016 budget.

Hammers made a motion to approve the public art operating budget request for FY 2016-2017 with the marketing line item of \$5000 be added. Boyd seconded. Motion approved.

Sedlacek appreciates the hard work and experience the staff uses to gather the information needed for the budget.

Kenworthy asked if this year's exhibition committee would be the selection committee to choose a temporary exhibit to purchase or if it is this year's committee? Luther explained it was the "People's Choice" data and then the vote came to the Commission. Scott said the "People's Choice" helps with the decision but the recommendation will come from the Exhibition Committee to purchase or not. Scott stated that if another piece was purchased, it will become a concern where the pieces will go and if it fits aesthetically. Kenworthy stated there were really two approaches: where in the City would there be a good place to have art versus purchasing a piece of art that the Commission likes but not knowing where to place it.

#### **On Item 5B. Motion – November and December Commission meeting schedule**

If the Commission decides to purchase a sculpture it should be decided before the artist' removes the piece by November 15. If there is a request for money it will need to go the City Council on November 16.

Crane made the motion to approve the alternate dates for the Public Art Advisory meetings to November 12 and December 10, 2015 at 5:30pm. Boyd seconded. Motion approved.

#### **Committee Reports**

Kenworthy thanked everyone for their engagement and commitment to the Public Art Commission. Kenworthy mentioned there was a very nice article in the *Positioned Perfectly –WDM Development Journal* with Scott regarding Public Art. Sedlacek stated in the *WDM Living Magazine*, Public Art was mentioned by Mayor Gaer.

#### **On Item 6A. Exhibition Committee**

Hammers reported the sub- committee discussed working with the Chamber of Commerce. The committee would like to set up a meeting with Linda Hulleman, Director of Operations to show her what the Commission has done, what the future holds for the Commission and see if the Chamber would be interested in being involved. This would mean being a part of: the Chamber's monthly emails, Happy Hours, Leadership classes and talking with the whole Chamber and all of the businesses. The Commission needs to move quickly on this because of the Chambers' deadlines. Hansen talked to the Hulleman and reviewed all of the points above. Hulleman took notes and will review it with the Chamber staff. The Chamber takes requests for certain strategic business opportunities for after hour gatherings. Hammers would like to invite Hulleman to come to the next Exhibition Committee meeting on November 11 to go over all of the possibilities and to see if they are interested. Kenworthy thought it would be a benefit for the Commission. Hammers stated it could bring two groups together that could work side by side efficiently. Hansen will contact the Chamber and invite them on November 11. Boyd would like to have pictures and materials at that meeting to show the Chamber some of the Commission's work and progress this far. Coobs is collecting the magazines and pictures for the committee for the meeting with the Chamber.

#### **On Item 6B. Community Service Committee**

Sedlacek stated the meeting went very well. There were two parts to the meeting. Sally Ortgies discussed the current grant and watershed improvement that is taking place around the City Campus. The Committee learned about the watersheds, the department's Green Team and their projects to attract butterflies, clean water, and the "Love Your Watershed" event. Crane explained a brainstorming session where the Committee brainstormed on the intellectual traits that could be done for community service

and then an emotional aspect for a projects that might be elicited. Thinking of these two things separately helped them to find a more robust and a more organized idea. Scott stated doing it this way essentially sets perimeters of what story do you want the art to tell and what kind of emotional reaction do you want the art to create. Scott has all the words typed and will try to write up a statement based on the words and combine them into categories.

#### **On Item 6C. Trail Gateway Art Selection Committee**

Lechtenberg reported the RFQ had been revised and then sent out to seven artist by Jack Becker. Becker requested Scott to recommend any of the artists that had been involved with the temporary art exhibition. Scott stated there were only four who actually met the criteria. Scott also added Tom Stanclift to the list. From those five Becker chose Tom Stanclift. Luther asked why Boshart was not chosen for the list? Scott stated his work was temporary and didn't really fit into the concept. Kenworthy asked about the next step. Scott stated Becker is required to submit ten artists with resumes and pictures of their art by November 11. Becker will organize those and they will go to the Selection Committee the Monday before Thanksgiving. The Selection Committee must read all the material before they come to the meeting with Becker. The resumes will be rated and three artists chosen on December 2. The artists will then be hired and paid \$2,000 each to bring their specific concept to the Commission. The artists will come to the community in late January and present their ideas to the selection committee. The selection committee will then choose one and negotiate a contract and hire the artist by March 1.

#### **Staff Reports**

##### **On Item 7A. Superintendent of Recreation**

Hansen stated the RFQ is very large and he would not be able to send it electronically to the Commission. If you would like a copy please notify Sonya and she will make copies. Kenworthy asked Hansen if the children who worked on the project with Jeff Boshart had selected a name for the sculpture. Hansen is still collecting that information.

##### **On Item 7B. Director of Parks and Recreation**

Scott stated there is a lot of projects going on in the department. Luther offered help from the Commission. Scott thanked Luther and the Commission for the offer and stated the marketing of Public Art would be appreciated. Scott will send the commission the RFQ to review BEFORE the next meeting on November 12.

##### **On Item 8. Other Matters**

Luther commented that the City Council seems to be very happy with the work done by the Public Art Commission and Parks and Recreation staff. Hammers thanked Scott for keeping the Commission on track and Hansen for all the background and leg work and the rest of the staff for their work. Scott stated he thought working with Jack Becker will be very professional and great to work with.

##### **On Item 9. Receive, File and/or Refer**

- A. City Council Communications
- B. FY 2015-2016 Budget Amendment

Hammers moved to adjourn. Luther seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sonya Coobs  
Parks & Recreation Secretary

ATTEST:

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Diane Boyd  
Commission Secretary